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Orlando Sentinel

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Weather

8 A.M.: 47°
2 P.M.: 62°
5 P.M.: 59°
CHANCE OF RAIN: 0%

WEATHER REPORT, C6

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News Now

LOCAL & STATE

◆ **THE NEW** Florida Hospital Apopka officially opens today with ambulances ferrying patients from the old hospital to the new $203 million facility. **B1**

◆ **THE STATE** Department of Children and Families files paperwork to permanently revoke the license of and impose a $5,500 fine on the day care where a 3-year-old boy died after being left in a hot van in August. **B2**

NATION & WORLD

◆ **HALF A DOZEN** senators have called on President Donald Trump to resign over sexual misconduct allegations. On Tuesday morning, he singled out one of them for attack with a sexually suggestive tweet. **A3**

◆ **SPECIAL COUNSEL** Robert Mueller isn't done with his investigation into Russian meddling in last year's presidential election, but Republicans increasingly are trying to stack up reasons for the American public to doubt whatever he concludes. **A3**

◆ **A GROUP** of federal scientists releases a stark 2017 Arctic Report Card on the warming at the top of the planet, suggesting that it is unparalleled in more than a millennium. **A12**

BUSINESS

◆ **THREE COUNTIES** neighboring Metro Orlando — Volusia, Brevard and Polk — are among the top spots in the country for minority homeownership rates, a new report finds. **A8**

SPORTS

◆ **THE ORLANDO MAGIC** will depend on center Nikola Vucevic more than ever tonight. **C1**

◆ **BEFORE A CAREER** in country music, Lee Brice was Clemson's long snapper, which should ease his jitters at the Diamond Resorts Invitational celebrity golf event in Orlando. **C1**

TOP STORY

Democrat Jones wins Alabama Senate race

JOHN BAZEMORE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Democratic Senator-elect Doug Jones and his wife, Louise, wave to supporters before speaking Tuesday in Birmingham, Ala. Jones defeated Republican Roy Moore, below.

He defeats scandal-plagued opponent Moore

BY KIM CHANDLER AND STEVE PEOPLES
Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — In a stunning victory aided by scandal, Democrat Doug Jones won Alabama's special Senate election Tuesday, beating back history, an embattled Republican opponent and President Donald Trump, who urgently endorsed GOP rebel Roy Moore despite a litany of sexual misconduct allegations.

It was the first Democratic Senate victory in a quarter-century in Alabama, one of the reddest of red states, and proved anew that party loyalty is anything but sure in the age of Trump. It was a major embarrassment for the president and a fresh wound for the nation's al-

Please turn to ***ALABAMA, A9***

JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

Seminole tax collector's realty plan challenged

Greenberg wants to sell 4 offices, rent branches

BY MARTIN E. COMAS
Staff Writer

Seminole County commissioners on Tuesday grilled Tax Collector Joel Greenberg about an unusual real-estate transaction that calls for selling off four branch offices for $13.2 million and using the cash to buy small commercial properties along the Orange County border.

His plan is to open four or five regional drivers-license offices in those shopping centers to serve the area's growing population and an influx of Puerto Ricans relocating to Central Florida from the hurricane-ravaged island.

As part of the transaction, the tax collector's office would pay rent over the next 13 years on branches in Casselberry, Winter Springs and two in Lake Mary after selling them to Boyd State Winter Springs LLC, a subsidiary of a Chicago real-estate investment firm. The sale is scheduled to close on Jan. 18, according to an agreement Greenberg's office signed with the buyer on Dec. 4.

Commissioners were skeptical of the deal, which calls for the tax collector to go from owning its properties to renting — calling it "unchartered waters" — and were irritated Greenberg didn't loop them in before signing off on the agreement.

Please turn to ***PLAN, A12***

Panel to seek death for man accused of killing nanny

BY KRISTA TORRALVA
Staff Writer

Orange-Osceola State Attorney Aramis Ayala's death-penalty review panel is recommending seeking the harshest sentence for a man accused of kidnapping and killing a Winter Park nanny, who was stabbed and suffocated before being dumped in the woods.

Ayala's spokeswoman announced the panel's decision Tuesday, the same day an Orange County grand jury indicted Scott Edward Nelson on a first-degree murder charge.

Nelson is accused of killing Jennifer Fulford, 56, who went missing Sept. 27 in Winter Park. Her body was found in a wooded area in southwest Orange County. Her wrists and ankles were bound, court records show, and her face was wrapped in duct tape.

Fulford worked as a personal assistant for Reid Berman and a caretaker for his children. The Berman family could not be reached for comment Tuesday but issued a statement after Nelson was charged last week.

"We continue to mourn the loss of Jen and find no comfort in learning the details of her final moments," the family said in a statement. "But we are profoundly grateful for the unwavering commitment and hard work of the Winter Park Police and Orange County Sheriff's departments and for bringing this man to justice.

Nelson

"Jennifer Fulford was beloved by many, and she is missed every day."

This marks the third case in which Ayala's panel will seek the death penalty since the Florida Supreme Court ruled her

Please turn to ***NANNY, A10***

Orlando Magic welcome new squad of professional video-game players

BY MARCO SANTANA
Staff Writer

Aaron Gordon, Evan Fournier and their teammates won't be the only ones trying to bring an NBA title to Orlando next year.

The Magic are adding a team of professional video-game players to square off against counterparts backed by familiar franchises, such as the Golden State Warriors and Boston Celtics. The new squad, which was named "Magic Gaming" this morning, reflects an effort to broaden the basketball league's base.

"The ability to attract a younger demographic through the esports side of basketball is very intriguing to us," Orlando Magic CEO Alex Martins said. "It's both an opportunity to grow our brand worldwide and cultivate younger fans."

The league will hold initial try-

Please turn to ***MAGIC, A2***

Virtual library cards help to educate Orange middle, high school students

BY SUSAN JACOBSON
Staff Writer

Even in our internet-centered time, getting a library card is still a rite of passage for many young people.

But for those who are homeless or move frequently, obtaining a card is difficult or impossible, and trips to the library also can be out of reach.

That's one reason the Orange County Library System and the Orange County Public Schools have teamed up to provide a virtual library card to middle and high school students. The idea is to help level the playing field and make it easy to study and learn.

"This makes it possible for those kids to have equal access to online services," library system spokeswoman Erin Sullivan said.

Rea Soondarlal, an eighth grader at South Creek Middle

Please turn to ***LIBRARY, A10***

Voices & Opinion

◆ **THE INTERVIEW:** Info on Global Partnership for Education. **A17**
◆ **NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE:** Raise defense spending. **A17**
◆ **SCOTT MAXWELL:** How to help others for holidays. **B1**
◆ **ASK AMY:** Couple must learn how to communicate. **B5**
◆ **MIKE BIANCHI:** Fitting that Frost coaches UCF in Peach Bowl. **C1**

What To Do Today

MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU

With "The Last Jedi" opening this week, test your knowledge of all things from a galaxy far, far away with Star Wars Trivia at Sea Dog Brewing Company in the Vista Centre Shoppes off I-4 in Orlando. The free bar game kicks off at 5:30 p.m. and will award bonus points to players who show up in costume.

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